

# Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Laws of Minnesota 2010 Final Report

**Date:** August 06, 2014

**Program or Project Title:** Anoka Sand Plain Restoration and Enhancement

**Funds Recommended:** \$747,000

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**Legislative Citation:** ML 2010, Ch. 361, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(f)

**Appropriation Language:** \$747,000 in fiscal year 2011 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Great River Greening to restore and enhance habitat on public property in the Anoka Sand Plain in Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Benton, Washington, Morrison, and Sherburne Counties. All restorations must comply with subdivision 9, paragraph (b).

**County Locations:** Anoka, Benton, Isanti, Morrison, and Sherburne.

## Ecological Planning Regions:

- Forest / Prairie Transition
- Metro / Urban

## Activity Type:

- Restore
- Enhance

## Priority Resources Addressed by Activity:

- Forest
- Prairie

## Abstract:

Through funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and other leveraged sources, the Anoka Sandplain Partnership restored and enhanced 4,278 acres of oak savanna, prairie, and oak woodland habitat across 11 priority sites.

## Activity Detail

### Design and Scope of Work:

The participating members of the Anoka Sandplain Habitat Partnership harnessed the expertise, resources, and connections of a broad community of committed conservation stakeholders to significantly elevate restoration and enhancement of oak savannas (Minnesota's most critically imperiled habitat), prairies, woodlands and forests on public lands across the Anoka Sandplain ecological region of east-central Minnesota. Through funding from the Outdoor Heritage Fund - leveraging additional funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, National Science Foundation, Aveda Foundation, Centerpoint Energy, Great River Energy, Knife River Corporation, Rathmann Foundation, Tiller Corporation, Xcel Energy Foundation, and various in-kind contributions - we exceeded all stated goals proposed at the onset of this grant. From July 2010 through December 2013, and over the 3.5-year duration of grant-related activity, 4,278 acres of oak savanna, oak woodland and prairie habitats occurring on public lands in the project area were restored and enhanced by project partners Great River Greening, Isanti County Parks and the University of Minnesota's Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve. This exceeded by 2,441 acres (or 238%) the acres proposed for restoration/enhancement work.

Prescribed restoration and enhancement work was completed across 11 public lands - see a full

summary detailed in the final parcel list – including:

- Isanti County Parks (1 site; 20 acres): Springvale County Park;
- Minnesota DNR State Wildlife Management Areas (6 sites; 638 acres): Carlos Avery, Lamprey Pass, Rice Area Sportsman Club, Sand Prairie, Michaelson Farm and Becklin Homestead WMA/County Park;
- Minnesota DNR Scientific and Natural Areas State (2 sites; 55 acres): Rice Lake and Harry W. Cater;
- University of Minnesota Cedar Creek Ecological Science Reserve (1,022 acres); and
- Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (2,543 acres).

In achievement of these outcomes, the following actions were completed:

- Elimination of invasive plants (trees, shrubs and forbs) over 2,360 acres of oak savanna and oak woodland habitats;
- Seeding/planting of 114 acres of oak savanna habitat;
- Seeding of 16 acres of oak woodland habitat; and
- Prescribed fire over 2,814 acres of oak savanna and prairie habitat.

Significant outreach to local community audiences was undertaken through the following mechanisms:

- Great River Greening orchestrated two volunteer events (at Sand Prairie WMA and Becklin Homestead County Park/WMA) in partnership with the Minnesota DNR, Isanti County Parks and National Wild Turkey Federation, engaging 108 local community members.
- Local Boy Scout troops, Maplewood Green Team, and other community members actively engaged in collecting local ecotype acorns that were used to restore oak woodlands at Lamprey Pass WMA.
- Projects and associated activities were regularly highlighted in Greening's e-newsletters, annual reports, and Twitter and Facebook sites during the course of the grant, each post reaching over 4,000 individuals.
- Staff presented the program to the 2010 annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology – Minnesota Chapter, the Rice Area Sportsman's Club, and several other local and regional events.
- The Partnership hosted Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council staff and members at Sherburne NWR during their spring 2012 field trip.

## Planning

### **MN State-wide Conservation Plan Priorities:**

- H1 Protect priority land habitats
- H5 Restore land, wetlands and wetland-associated watersheds

### **Plans Addressed:**

- Minnesota DNR Strategic Conservation Agenda
- Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans
- Tomorrow's Habitat for the Wild and Rare

### **LSOHC Statewide Priorities:**

- Address conservation opportunities that will be lost if not immediately acted on
- Allow public access. This comes into play when all other things about the request are approximately equal
- Are able to leverage effort and/or other funds to supplement any OHF appropriation
- Are ongoing, successful, transparent and accountable programs addressing actions and targets of one or more of the ecological sections
- Produce multiple enduring conservation benefits
- Provide Minnesotans with greater public access to outdoor environments with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation opportunities
- Restore or enhance habitat on state-owned WMAs, AMAs, SNAs, and state forests
- Use a science-based strategic planning and evaluation model to guide protection, restoration and enhancement, similar to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Strategic Habitat Conservation model

### **LSOHC Forest Prairie Transition Section Priorities:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore rare native remnant prairie

### **LSOHC Metro Urban Section Priorities:**

- Protect, enhance, and restore remnant native prairie, Big Woods forests, and oak savanna with an emphasis on areas with high biological diversity
- Protect habitat corridors, with emphasis on the Minnesota, Mississippi, and St. Croix rivers (bluff to floodplain)

## **Sustainability and Maintenance:**

No Sustainability or Maintenance Methods Listed

### **Outcomes**

#### **Programs in forest-prairie transition region:**

- No Programs Listed

#### **Programs in metropolitan urbanizing region:**

- No Programs Listed

### **Relationship to Other Funds:**

- No Relationships Listed

## **Sustain and/or Maintenance Plan:**

All land managers participating in this proposal have committed to the long-term maintenance of these habitat improvements once they are made as part of their standard operating costs. Often, the expense of restoration/enhancement on the front end is a major hurdle that first must be overcome. The cost of ongoing management to maintain these improvements is relatively low and can be accommodated in the existing program funds of participating agencies/organizations.

Also, a principle goal of the ASP Habitat Partnership is to elevate and broaden the resource base for use in protecting, restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat throughout the program area. We are committed to raising funds/resources through an array of channels that will ensure any deficits in funding for the long-term maintenance of these improvements are covered.

## Budget Spreadsheet

Total Amount: \$747,000

### Budget and Cash Leverage

Budget Name	Request	Spent	Cash Leverage (anticipated)	Cash Leverage (received)	Leverage Source	Total (original)	Total (final)
Personnel	\$203,700	\$56,800	\$0	\$64,400	Private Source, DNR, NWTF, NFWF	\$203,700	\$121,200
Contracts	\$463,200	\$667,600	\$0	\$62,700	DNR, NFWF, NSF, Isanti SWCD	\$463,200	\$730,300
Fee Acquisition w/ PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Fee Acquisition w/o PILT	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Acquisition	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Easement Stewardship	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Travel	\$7,200	\$6,500	\$0	\$0		\$7,200	\$6,500
Professional Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Direct Support Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
DNR Land Acquisition Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Capital Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
Other Equipment/Tools	\$42,900	\$9,300	\$0	\$0		\$42,900	\$9,300
Supplies/Materials	\$30,000	\$6,800	\$0	\$0		\$30,000	\$6,800
DNR IDP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$747,000</b>	<b>\$747,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$127,100</b>		<b>\$747,000</b>	<b>\$874,100</b>

### Personnel

Position	FTE	Over # of years	Spent	Cash Leverage	Leverage Source	Total
Greening Personnel	0.24	4.00	\$56,800	\$64,400	Private Source, DNR, NWTF, NFWF	\$121,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.24</b>	<b>4.00</b>	<b>\$56,800</b>	<b>\$64,400</b>		<b>\$121,200</b>

## Output Tables

**Table 1a. Acres by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	0	0	1,652	20	216	16	0	0	1,868	36
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	0	0	51	4,143	0	0	0	0	51	4,143
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,703</b>	<b>4,163</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>4,179</b>

**Table 1b. How many of these Prairie acres are Native Prairie?**

Type	Native Prairie (original)	Native Prairie (final)
Restore	0	0
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0
Enhance	0	565
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Table 2. Total Requested Funding by Resource Type**

Type	Wetlands (original)	Wetlands (final)	Prairies (original)	Prairies (final)	Forest (original)	Forest (final)	Habitats (original)	Habitats (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$0	\$0	\$675,500	\$14,700	\$9,000	\$8,300	\$0	\$0	\$684,500	\$23,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$0	\$0	\$62,500	\$724,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62,500	\$724,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$738,000</b>	<b>\$738,700</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>	<b>\$8,300</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$747,000</b>	<b>\$747,000</b>

**Table 3. Acres within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	1,705	36	163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,868	36
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Protect in Easement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enhance	22	3,765	29	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	51	4,143
Total	1,727	3,801	192	378	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,919	4,179

**Table 4. Total Requested Funding within each Ecological Section**

Type	Metro Urban (original)	Metro Urban (final)	Forest Prairie (original)	Forest Prairie (final)	SE Forest (original)	SE Forest (final)	Prairie (original)	Prairie (final)	N Forest (original)	N Forest (final)	Total (original)	Total (final)
Restore	\$483,400	\$23,000	\$201,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$684,600	\$23,000
Protect in Fee with State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Fee W/O State PILT Liability	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Protect in Easement	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Enhance	\$46,000	\$378,900	\$16,400	\$345,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62,400	\$724,000
Total	\$529,400	\$401,900	\$217,600	\$345,100	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$747,000	\$747,000

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (original)**

0

**Target Lake/Stream/River Feet or Miles (final)**

0 miles

# Parcel List

## Section 1 - Restore / Enhance Parcel List

### Anoka

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Carlos Avery WMA	03322228	40	\$48,000	Yes
Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve	03424225	1,022	\$120,000	Yes
Lamprey Pass WMA	03222213	16	\$8,500	Yes

### Benton

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Michaelson Farm WMA	03731205	164	\$116,000	Yes

### Isanti

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Becklin Homestead WMA & County Park	03624224	45	\$1,000	Yes
Springvale County Park	03624220	20	\$14,000	Yes

### Morrison

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Rice Area Sportsman Club WMA	03931213	214	\$227,000	Yes

### Sherburne

Name	TRDS	Acres	Est Cost	Existing Protection?
Harry W. Cater SNA	03530222	8	\$17,000	Yes
Rice Lake SNA	03529211	47	\$118,000	Yes
Sand Prairie WMA	03530208	159	\$8,500	Yes
Sherburne NWR	03528216	2,543	\$69,000	Yes

## Section 2 - Protect Parcel List

No parcels with an activity type protect.

### Section 2a - Protect Parcel with Bldgs

No parcels with an activity type protect and has buildings.

## Section 3 - Other Parcel Activity

No parcels with an other activity type.

## Completed Parcel: Becklin Homestead WMA & County Park

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	45
<b>County:</b>	Isanti
<b>Township:</b>	036
<b>Range:</b>	24
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	24
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	45
<b>Amount of Shoreline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$1,000

## Completed Parcel: Carlos Avery WMA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	40
<b>County:</b>	Anoka
<b>Township:</b>	033
<b>Range:</b>	22
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	28
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	40
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$48,000

## Completed Parcel: Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	1022
<b>County:</b>	Anoka
<b>Township:</b>	034
<b>Range:</b>	24
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	25
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	1022
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$120,000

## Completed Parcel: Harry W. Cater SNA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	8
<b>County:</b>	Sherburne
<b>Township:</b>	035
<b>Range:</b>	30
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	22
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	8
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$17,000

## Completed Parcel: Lamprey Pass WMA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	16
<b>County:</b>	Anoka
<b>Township:</b>	032
<b>Range:</b>	22
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	13
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	16
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$8,500

## Completed Parcel: Michaelson Farm WMA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	164
<b>County:</b>	Benton
<b>Township:</b>	037
<b>Range:</b>	31
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	05
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	164
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$116,000

## Completed Parcel: Rice Area Sportsman Club WMA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	214
<b>County:</b>	Morrison
<b>Township:</b>	039
<b>Range:</b>	31
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	13
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	214
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$227,000

## Completed Parcel: Rice Lake SNA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	47
<b>County:</b>	Sherburne
<b>Township:</b>	035
<b>Range:</b>	29
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	11
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	47
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$118,000

## Completed Parcel: Sand Prairie WMA

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	159
<b>County:</b>	Sherburne
<b>Township:</b>	035
<b>Range:</b>	30
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	08
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	159
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$8,500

## Completed Parcel: Sherburne NWR

<b># of Total Acres:</b>	2543
<b>County:</b>	Sherburne
<b>Township:</b>	035
<b>Range:</b>	28
<b>Direction:</b>	2
<b>Section:</b>	16
<b># of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Forest:</b>	
<b># of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:</b>	2543
<b>Amount of Shorline:</b>	
<b>Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):</b>	
<b>Has there been signage erected at the site:</b>	Yes
<b>Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:</b>	\$69,000

# Completed Parcel: Springvale County Park

**# of Total Acres:** 20  
**County:** Isanti  
**Township:** 036  
**Range:** 24  
**Direction:** 2  
**Section:** 20  
**# of Acres: Wetlands/Upland:**  
**# of Acres: Forest:**  
**# of Acres: Prairie/Grassland:** 20  
**Amount of Shorline:**  
**Name of Adjacent Body of Water (if applicable):**  
**Has there been signage erected at the site:** Yes  
**Total cost of Restoration/Enhancement:** \$14,000